

Iowa Joint Operator Certification and Training Coordination Committee

Friday, May 18, 2007 – IAMU Office, Ankeny, Iowa

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jon Martens at 10:07 a.m.

Present were:

- Jon Martens, IAWWA	- Mike Wildung, IRWA
- Jim McElvogue, IWPCA	- Jim Stricker, IWPCA
- Steve Mrstik, KCC	- Marty Kunkel, IAMU
- Marty Hoffert, IAWWA	- Jill Soenen, IAMU
- Jane Enfield, IDNR	- Laurie Sharp, IDNR

Visitors: Dennis Hayworth, DMACC
Frank DeMilia, NWICC (Northwest Iowa Community College)

2. Adoption of Agenda

Jill Soenen asked to add an item regarding backhoe operator training. With that addition, acceptance of the agenda was moved by Jim Stricker and seconded by Marty Hoffert. Motion carried.

[NOTE: An agenda can be obtained from any Joint Committee member within the three days preceding a meeting of the Joint Committee.]

3. Approval of March 16, 2007 Minutes

Moved by Marty Hoffert, seconded by Jim Stricker, to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

4. Public Comment

Dennis Hayworth and Frank DeMilia were introduced and are representatives of the One Source Consortium that has a contract with DNR to offer small system training throughout the state.

5. Unfinished Business/Assignments

a. Press Release

Rhonda Guy was not in attendance

b. Operator by Affidavit Subcommittee

Jon Martens reported that everything is a go, and Chuck Corell is writing a letter endorsing the guidance document to the Field Services Chief.

c. Grade A Training Scope Subcommittee

Laurie Sharp reported that currently AWWA gives the 6 hour “train the trainer” class for grade A. There are several people around the state that give this training, they will be asked to either serve on the committee (along with representatives from the DNR field offices) or serve as chair. There is a very high turnover among grade A operators and the committee will identify further training that is needed.

d. Facilities Classification Subcommittee

Jim Stricker distributed a handout detailing the Proposed Water Treatment Plant Point Rating System and the Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Point Rating System. The committee wanted to design something workable for Iowa and initially took the ABC system and modified it to better fit Iowa systems. They also looked at systems from surrounding states and eventually used some key points that are found in Minnesota’s classification system. One large modification from the ABC system was the

amount of points awarded for population. The ABC system pertains more to states that are highly populated and not ones that are like Iowa and are more rural with many small communities.

Modifications to the Water Treatment Plant Point Rating System include:

- points awarded for population affected were changed to be more in line with Iowa communities
- the Wastewater Plant rating system gave points for Laboratory control, and the committee felt that this was just as relevant for water treatment plants and added a section
- added section for booster pumps and number of wells
- minor word changes

Of the 8 water treatment plants classified using the Proposed system, 6 remained the same and 2 were raised (both the raised systems were surface water treatment plants).

Modifications to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Point Rating system include:

- minor word adjustments to Solids Handling and Laboratory Control
- added section for Collection System (lift stations)

Of the 9 wastewater treatment plants classified using the Proposed system, 5 remained the same, 2 were raised and 2 decreased by 1 grade

Marty Hoffert commented that Newton was one of the systems re-classified and said the system made sense.

The committee proposes the IDNR Field Offices complete the re-classifying. The Field Offices are out looking at the plants on a 3-year cycle and it wouldn't put too much burden on them.

Re-classification with a point system would bring Iowa more in line with the national ABC guidelines, the point system would be better suited to plant complexity and also make the classification process more consistent.

Jim requested that the members of the Joint Op Committee review the document and provide feedback at future meetings.

e. Water Distribution Amendment

Laurie Sharp explained what this topic is (split the licenses into separate, but equal WT and WD) for the visitors and commented that we are at the beginning of the process.

IDNR- IT is putting together statistics for how many operators actually obtain more CEUs than required, and this information will be reviewed at future meetings.

f. Issuing Agency Agreements

DNR Issuing Agency Symposium will be held on Friday June 15. Laurie Sharp will send out a packet of information for those attending.

It was also commented that AWWA will become an issuing agency.

6. New Business

a. Backhoe Operator Training

Jill Soenen reported that currently "backhoe operator" is currently only found in the Safety Section of the CEU Course Guidance Lists. If IAMU was to hold a "hands-on" backhoe operator training class would it still only qualify for safety CEUs or would it fall under regular CEUs (meaning that it wouldn't be subject to the "not more than 20% of one's total CEUs earned fall under safety").

The committee felt that if it fell in line with the NTK there's no reason it wouldn't apply to Water Distribution (non-safety). Jill will bring more information to the next meeting.

b. Excel Presentation (how to)

Jim Utter was not present

c. New Representatives

Jon Martens reported that he received an email from Collette Saylor of One Source. One Source currently has a contract with IDNR to do small system training, and would like to be represented on the Joint Op Committee. Kirkwood is currently part of One Source and has agreed to let One Source fill 2 of their 4 seats. The KCC representative would be the voting member, but only after discussing the decision with the other KCC representatives (including the One Source reps)

Jon looked in the by-laws and found nothing that prohibited this, although KCC will have to provide in writing that One Source representatives will fill two of their seats.

Laurie Sharp commented that since One Source does quite a bit of training it will be nice and easier for IDNR to have all the players at the same table.

7. Representative Comments

a. IDNR

Laurie Sharp reported that Steve Hopkins has left the water supply section for a job in the Watershed Improvement section of the DNR....the committee gives him their best wishes.

They are also just starting to process renewals, and are continually getting updates for the database (shift operators, operator in charge, staff, etc.), and this renewal all operators will get a wallet card that can be easily adapted to have a bar code or magnetic strip if ever needed.

Laurie will also send out information on the Issuing Agency/CEU Symposium

b. IAMU

Jill Soenen reported that the Sampling Techniques and Plan Development Workshops will be held as follows:

Storm Lake – July 11
Mason City – July 12
Atlantic – July 13

Ankeny – July 18
Independence – July 19
Coralville – July 20

IAMU's contract with IDNR to maintain the Training Calendar is up in June, but up until that time they will continue to put anything sent to them on the website.

c. IAWWA

Marty Hoffert reported the Annual Conference will be held in Davenport on October 9-11, 2007

d. IRWA

Mike Wildung had nothing to report.

e. ISU

No representative present.

f. IWPCA

Annual meeting in Cedar Rapids on June 6-8, 2007

g. KCC

Steve Mrstik announced that Kirkwood's Annual Water Conferences will be held in Marquette May 21 and 22 and at Ankeny July 9 and 10. The Bob Black Wastewater Conference will be held in Cedar Rapids August 13 and 14.

8. Assignments

Rhonda Guy – Press release and descriptive article

Jon Martens – Send proposed point system via email to committee

All – be prepared to discuss the proposed point system

Staff – Report on CEUs earned

Staff – Report on Issuing Agency symposium

Steve – document stating that One Source will be taking two seats on the committee

Jill – information regarding “backhoe operator” and the NTK

9. Next Meeting

Friday, July 20, 2007, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the IAMU office in Ankeny.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim McElvogue; seconded by Steve Mrstik; motion carried. The Joint Committee adjourned.

Jill Soenen